

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

The [National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library](#) (NCSML) preserves, presents and transcends unique stories of Czech and Slovak history and culture through innovative experiences and active engagement to reach cross-cultural audiences locally, nationally and internationally. Check out the curated list of videos and photos recommended by NCSML staff that highlights the history, programs and impact of the national museum and library.



Introduction to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

Watch this two-minute introductory video to learn more about the purpose and values of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. Cecilia Rokusek, NCSML president and CEO, shares the size and scope of the museum and library, as well as the impact it has statewide and nationally.

[Watch Video](#)



Past, Present and Future of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

What began as a community effort by a group of second and third-generation descendants of Czech immigrants in 1974 to preserve Czech heritage and culture evolved into national museum for everyone regardless of ethnic and cultural background. The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library celebrates life: Czech life, Slovak life, American life. Watch this video to learn more about the museum and library's history and its future.

[Watch Video](#)



Immigrant Foodways Series: Classic & Modern Czech & Slovak Cuisine II

One of the virtual programs offered by the national museum is a virtual Immigrant Foodways Series. This video is from "Classic & Modern Czech & Slovak Cuisine II," a premier cooking class with chef Tom Slepicka. Slepicka graduated from culinary school in his hometown, Brno, located in the Czech Republic. During his years in the catering industry in Europe, he focused on providing a fine-dining experience utilizing world cuisine. In 2015-2016, he operated the Czech Deli at the NewBo City Market in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Follow along his online course to create some delicious meals from the comfort of your own home.

[Watch Video](#)

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Highlights from National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library's 40th Anniversary Celebration

View some of the sights and sounds at the National Czech & Slovak's Museum & Library's 40th Anniversary Celebration held July 12, 2014. More than 1,550 people visited the museum during the day, while hundreds more joined in the evening for a concert by singer-songwriter and Iowan William Elliott Whitmore (concert footage begins at 1:45). Guests toured exhibits, participated in family activities and learned folk dances.

[Watch Video](#)



BrewNost

BrewNost is an international beer festival held at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It also serves as a fundraising event for the national museum and library. The festival includes unlimited food and beverage sampling from some of the best local brewers, distillers and chefs.

[Watch Video](#)



Hody

Hody is an annual traditional celebration held between May to November throughout the Czech and Slovak Republics. The celebration usually takes place on a Sunday and may last one or two more days. In the center of the event stands a festive maypole (in Czech: mája or májka), often almost 100 feet tall and built from two or three spruce trees. It's usually manually erected one day before the festivity and stands in the center of a dancing place where people dance and sing with the accompaniment of the brass music. The main organizer and arranger of Hody is a selected young boy called první stárek (the first stárek – literally the first “old one”). He and a group of young friends (somewhere they are called stárceks – Czech plural: stárce; or they can be called chasa) are responsible for the organization and smooth running of the event. Each stárek (or member of chasa) also has a girl partner, usually called starka or stárka. The boys and girls wears a traditional folk costume, which differs widely from region to region.

[View Hody 2021 Photo Gallery](#)

[Watch Hody 2021 Video](#)

